

Message Text

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41

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MCANDREW

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

NEA/IRN - MR. NAAS

ANALYSIS: PLEASE INSERT C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION
OF ADDITIONAL ACTION ADDEES)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 254811
C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION OF ADDITIONAL ACTION ADDEES)
GENEVA FOR MEPC CINCEUR FOR POLAD

.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - OCTOBER 13

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
OCTOBER 13, 1976:

Q. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE KIND OF ARMS THAT
ISRAEL IS GETTING IN THIS LATEST U.S. PACKAGE?

A. NO, I CANNOT. AS THE SECRETARY INDICATED ON MONDAY,
ALONG WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALLON, WE DO NOT DISCUSS
PUBLICLY MILITARY EQUIPMENT THAT IS BEING SOLD TO ISRAEL
OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY. THIS DOES COME OUT AS NOTIFICATION
OF LETTERS OF OFFER ARE SENT TO THE CONGRESS.

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Q. WHEN ARE THOSE LETTERS SENT?

A. THEY ARE SENT AS SCHEDULES FOR DELIVERY ARE ARRANGED.
I DO NOT KNOW THAT ANY HAVE GONE FORWARD CONCERNING THE
PARTICULAR ITEMS THAT WERE REFERRED TO ON MONDAY. BUT
AS THE SCHEDULE FOR DELIVERY OF THESE IS DEVELOPED,
NOTIFICATION OF LETTERS OF OFFER WILL GO FORWARD TO THE
CONGRESS.

Q. NO LETTERS HAVE GONE AS YET?

A. NOT ON WHAT WAS ANNOUNCED ON MONDAY, NOT TO MY
KNOWLEDGE, NO.

Q. IS IT THE INTENTION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO SEND

UP THESE LETTERS WHILE CONGRESS IS IN ADJOURNMENT?

A. I THINK THE PROCEDURE IS THAT THE NOTIFICATION OF LETTERS OF OFFER GO TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

Q. YES, BUT WHAT I MEANT IS THIS: UNDER THE LAW AS IT IS PRESENTLY DRAWN, CONGRESS HAS THIRTY CALENDAR DAYS TO TAKE ACTION IF THEY WISH TO DO SO. BEFORE CONGRESS LEFT, IT ASKED, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, TO HAVE BEFORE IT ANY SUBSTANTIAL REQUESTS SO THAT THIS THIRTY DAY PERIOD WOULD NOT ELAPSE WHILE THEY WERE OUT OF SESSION.

THE QUESTION IS, WILL THE ADMINISTRATION, OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHO IS THE ONE TO SEND THEM, WAIT UNTIL AFTER CONGRESS COMES BACK TO SEND THESE LETTERS UP, OR WILL IT DO IT AT A TIME WHEN CONGRESS HAS NO CHANCE TO PASS ON THEM?

A. I WILL HAVE TO CHECK ON THAT PARTICULAR POINT, DON. AS I SAY, THE SCHEDULE HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED YET. AT LEAST THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

SECONDLY, IT IS ALSO MY UNDERSTANDING UNDER THE PROCEDURE THAT WHEN THESE NOTIFICATIONS GO TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES THAT THE STAFFS OF THE COMMITTEES INFORM THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES.

Q. WELL, YES, THEY CAN INFORM THE MEMBERS, BUT UNLESS THE CONGRESS, BY A VOTE, TAKES SOME ACTION, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THEY SAY TO THE MEMBERS.

A. LET ME CHECK AND SEE.

Q. ON THAT POINT, I BELIEVE THE PENTAGON SAID YESTERDAY THAT NO LETTERS RELATING TO THESE NEW BITS OF EQUIPMENT WILL GO UP UNTIL THE NEW CONGRESS CONVENES. WILL YOU VERIFY THAT?

A. LET ME VERIFY THAT.

Q. ON MONDAY, THE SECRETARY, I THINK, USED THE WORD "ROUTINE" OR "NORMAL" KINDS OF WEAPONS. THAT WOULD HAVE SEEMED TO HAVE IMPLIED THAT THE WEAPONS IN THE NEW PACKAGE WERE LIKE THE WEAPONS IN THE OLD PACKAGE. IS THAT THE CASE? OR ARE THERE NEW KINDS?

A. I THINK THE SECRETARY WAS ASKED ABOUT WHETHER THERE WERE NEW MISSILE SYSTEMS. AND MY RECOLLECTION WAS

THAT HE SAID THERE WERE NOT. BUT HE SAID THAT THIS CASE WAS HANDLED IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR ONGOING RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL, AND THAT AS APPROVALS ARE MADE, INEVITABLY THERE ARE NEW WEAPONS APPROVED.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE WEAPONS ARE? ARE YOU SURE IN THE SENSE OF WHAT YOU ARE REPLYING HERE NOW? DO YOU HAVE A LIST OF IT IN YOUR OFFICE?

A. NO, I DO NOT.

Q. DO YOU KNOW IN THAT LINE WHETHER THE ISRAELIS HAVE HAD PBU'S IN THE PAST?

A. NO, I DO NOT. I THINK THE SECRETARY WAS TALKING ABOUT A ROUTINE DECISION. I HAVE THE TRANSCRIPT OF WHAT HE SAID. HE SAID, "IT WAS HANDLED AS A ROUTINE DECISION UNCLASSIFIED

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IN AN ONGOING RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH, INEVITABLY, NEW ITEMS GET APPROVED FROM TIME TO TIME."

Q. IF IT WAS A ROUTINE DECISION, WHY WASN'T THE CONGRESS ADVISED THAT A DECISION ON A MAJOR ITEM LIKE THIS WAS LIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING? HE INDICATED THAT IT WAS EXPECTED THAT A DECISION WOULD COME AT ABOUT THIS TIME SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, AND YET WHEN THE CONGRESS REQUESTED INFORMATION ABOUT THIS, THEY DIDN'T GET IT.

A. MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROCEDURE IS THAT WHEN THE SCHEDULE OF DELIVERY IS DETERMINED, THAT NOTIFICATIONS THEN GO FORWARD.

Q. IF THIS WAS A ROUTINE DECISION IN AN ONGOING RELATIONSHIP, THERE WAS A REPORT IN, I BELIEVE, THE WASHINGTON POST THIS MORNING SAYING THAT THE PRESIDENT MADE THE DECISION--IT WAS A WHITE HOUSE DECISION, MADE IT ON HIS OWN EITHER FRIDAY OR SATURDAY, AND THAT IT WAS OUTSIDE OF

THE NORMAL CHANNELS FOR THIS KIND OF DECISIONMAKING. IS THAT REPORT INACCURATE?

A. I AM GOING TO STICK WITH WHAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID ON MONDAY.

Q. MEANING THAT REPORT IS INACCURATE. IT DID GO THROUGH ROUTINE CHANNELS.

A. I AM STICKING WITH WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID. THAT IS THE EXPLANATION OF --

Q. HE IS TALKING ABOUT A ROUTINE DECISION. I AM ASKING

ABOUT THE CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH THE DECISION IS REACHED.

A. IN THE FIRST PLACE, I AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

Q. I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.

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A. THE SECRETARY DESCRIBED HOW THE DECISION WAS REACHED AS PART OF THE ON-GOING MILITARY RELATIONSHIP, AND THAT, I THINK, IS GOING TO BE THE EXTENT OF OUR EXPLANATION.

Q. HE DIDN'T DESCRIBE HOW IT WAS REACHED, HE MERELY SAID IT WAS A ROUTINE DECISION. I AM ASKING YOU HOW IT WAS REACHED.

A. AS PART OF OUR ONGOING MILITARY RELATIONSHIP.

Q. THAT IS NOT AN ANSWER, AND YOU KNOW THAT.

A. THE SECRETARY OF STATE, OF COURSE, WAS PARTICIPATING IN THE TALKS WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALLON. HE ALSO--

Q. THAT WAS ON MONDAY. THE DECISION WAS REPORTEDLY REACHED EITHER FRIDAY OR SATURDAY.

A. I AM JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

Q. WHEN HE SAID IT WAS A ROUTINE DECISION, DO YOU THINK HE INCORPORATED WITH THAT THE WAY THE MATTER WAS

HANDLED? WAS IT HANDLED IN A ROUTINE WAY?

A. LET ME JUST RESTATE WHAT HE SAID.

Q. OKAY.

A. THE SECRETARY WAS ASKED: "WERE ALL KINDS OF SPECULATIONS ABOUT THE RANGE OF NEW MISSILES AND NEW WEAPONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO ISRAEL?" AND HE WAS ASKED IF HE COULD NARROW IT DOWN. HE SAID, "WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT NEW TYPES OF MISSILES, BUT AS THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID, THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL HAVE AN ONGOING RELATIONSHIP. ISRAEL SUBMITS REQUESTS WHICH ARE THEN JOINTLY STUDIED. AND AS THEY BECOME READY FOR DECISION, ONCE THE STUDIES ARE CONCLUDED IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF EVENTS, WE NOTIFY THE ISRAELI

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GOVERNMENT." --

Q. THAT HARDLY EVEN APPROACHES THE QUESTION.

A. "EVEN THOUGH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DIDN'T EVEN MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MATTER, IT WAS HANDLED AS A ROUTINE DECISION IN AN ONGOING RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH, INEVITABLY, NEW ITEMS GET APPROVED FROM TIME TO TIME."

Q. WELL, I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THAT, BUT HE USED THE WORD "HANDLED."

A. I CANNOT GO BEYOND WHAT HE SAID. I DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING MORE THAN WHAT HE SAID.

Q. IT WOULD STRIKE ME THAT YOU ARE SAYING THE PRESS ACCOUNTS THAT SUGGESTED THIS WAS HANDLED IN A SPECIAL WAY, FOR POLITICAL REASONS OR FOR OTHER REASONS, ARE WRONG.

A. HE WAS ASKED THAT QUESTION ON MONDAY, IF IT HAD A POLITICAL COMPONENT, AND THAT WAS HIS ANSWER.

Q. WHAT EVIDENCE CAN YOU PRODUCE THAT POLITICS WAS NEVER DISCUSSED WHEN THEY WERE MAKING THAT DECISION? ALL WE HAVE ARE THE ASSERTIONS, BUT WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE?

A. I AM JUST GOING TO STAND ON WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID IN RESPONSE TO THAT QUESTION ON MONDAY. I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT HE SAID.

Q. LET ME FOLLOW UP. YOU ARE NOT PROVIDING ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR FINDING REFUGE IN WHAT KISSINGER SAID. KISSINGER ALSO SAID, "NO ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE." BUT RON NESSEN, AT THE WHITE HOUSE, WAS A LOT MORE FORTHCOMING, BECAUSE HE SAID, "EQUIPMENT WAS BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ISRAELIS THAT HAD NEVER BEFORE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE."

NOW, WHY ISN'T THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT? WHY IS KISSINGER UNCLASSIFIED

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RIGHT IN SAYING THERE HAS BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT WHEN IN FACT, IF EVEN IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, NESSEN PROVIDED INFORMATION THAT WENT BEYOND?

A. THE SECRETARY, IN HIS ANSWER, WHICH I HAVE JUST READ TO YOU, WAS THAT HE SAID, "WHEN THESE DECISIONS ARE

MADE, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT NEW ITEMS GET APPROVED FROM TIME TO TIME."

Q. IS THERE CONCERN IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THIS DEAL WILL CHANGE THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I THINK, IN THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK, THAT FACTOR IS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ALL MILITARY TRANSACTIONS. AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS APPROVAL WAS AS STATED BOTH AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND BY THE SECRETARY.

Q. WELL, I UNDERSTAND, BUT I ASKED IF IT WOULD CHANGE THE BALANCE. I SUPPOSE YOU MEAN THE BALANCE IS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. BUT IS THERE A FEELING WHAT EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON THAT BALANCE?

A. I AM JUST NOT REALLY ABLE TO GO INTO THOSE KINDS OF SPECIFICS ON THIS PARTICULAR TRANSACTION BEYOND WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER THE SECRETARY SUPPORTS THAT DECISION?

A. WHAT DECISION?

Q. THE DECISION TO GIVE THE ISRAELIS MORE MILITARY EQUIPMENT?

A. OF COURSE HE DOES.

Q. DID HE SUPPORT IT BEFORE IT WAS MADE OR AFTER, OR BOTH? DOES HE SUPPORT IT NOW THAT IT HAS BEEN MADE, OR DID HE FAVOR THE DECISION?

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A. I THINK IT IS CLEAR FROM THE WHOLE THRUST OF THE SECRETARY'S RESPONSES ON MONDAY THAT HE IS IN SUPPORT OF THE DECISION, AND THAT IT IS PART OF OUR ONGOING MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL.

Q. EARLIER IN THE DAY, PRIOR TO MR. ALLON'S ARRIVAL HERE, AT THE WHITE HOUSE HE SAID THERE WERE NO NEW WEAPONS INVOLVED IN THE AGREEMENT. DO YOU HAVE A TRANSCRIPT OF HIS REMARKS THAT HE MADE AT THE WHITE HOUSE?

A. WHOSE REMARKS?

Q. MR. ALLON SAID THERE WERE NO NEW WEAPONS. NOW, WAS HE RIGHT OR WRONG WHEN HE SAID THAT?

A. I DO NOT HAVE THAT TRANSCRIPT BEFORE ME.

Q. I DON'T HAVE IT IN MY NOTES EXACTLY HERE, BUT KISSINGER, IN TALKING TO REPORTERS IN THE LOBBY AFTER THE ALLON LUNCHEON, WAS ASKED -- IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE POLITICAL IMPACT OR THE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS, SAYING IT MADE NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF IT, AND I THINK HE ALSO SAID THAT THE DECISION ON THIS WHICH WAS KNOWN MONTHS AGO.

A. I HAVE IT IN FRONT OF ME, AND HE SAID, "I THINK THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MADE NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF IT, THAT WE NOTIFIED THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF STUDYING THIS, THAT IT WAS KNOWN MONTHS AGO THAT IT WOULD COME UP JUST ABOUT THIS TIME." I BELIEVE ALL OF THIS ANSWERS THE QUESTION.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE REPORT IN THE LONDON DAILY EXPRESS TODAY BY CHAPMAN PINCHER, THAT THE SECRETARY INDUCED THE SHAH OF IRAN TO THREATEN TO CUT OFF OIL SUPPLIES TO SOUTH AFRICA, TO GET VORSTER TO LEAN MORE HEAVILY ON RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER SMITH TO ACCEPT THE RHODESIAN PEACE PACKAGE?

A. I DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT PARTICULAR REPORT. BUT THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT WHETHER UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESSURE WAS PUT ON THE SOUTH AFRICANS, OR ON THE RHODESIANS--AND THE SECRETARY HIMSELF, I BELIEVE, ON

VARIOUS OCCASIONS--AND I AM SURE OTHER GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE SAID THERE WAS NO PRESSURE APPLIED TO ANYBODY.

Q. YOU MEAN AMERICAN PRESSURE.

A. THAT IS RIGHT.

Q. WELL I GUESS THE IRANIANS--THEIR PRESSURE--

A. ANY PRESSURE.

THE POINT WAS: THE REASON FOR THE DECISION MADE BY EITHER THE RHODESIANS OR THE SOUTH AFRICANS WAS THAT THEIR OWN ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION--THEIR OWN PERCEPTION OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS INDICATED THEY WERE SERVED BY MOVING FORWARD AT THIS TIME TOWARD A PEACEFUL SOLUTION THROUGH THE PEACEFUL ROUTE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BLACK NATIONALISTS.

Q. YOU MEAN NO AMERICAN PRESSURE, THEN?

A. IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF PRESSURE. IT WAS A QUESTION OF --

Q. WELL, THERE WAS NO AMERICAN PRESSURE APPLIED?

A. YES, RIGHT.

Q. ON ANY OF THE PARTIES.

A. YES.

Q. OKAY. HOW ABOUT IRANIAN PRESSURE?

A. I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE STORY. I AM JUST SAYING THAT THE QUESTION OF PRESSURE--I THINK IT WAS CLEAR IN ACCOUNTS I HAVE SEEN OF VARIOUS VERSIONS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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Q'S AND A'S ON THIS SUBJECT, IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF PRESSURE. IT WAS A QUESTION OF DISCUSSING AND PRESENTING THE FACTS IN THE SITUATION. AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND THE RHODESIANS BOTH REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THEIR OWN INTERESTS WERE SERVED THROUGH GOING THE PEACEFUL ROUTE. AND I THINK MR. VORSTER, HIMSELF, HAS ADDRESSED THAT, AS WELL AS MR. SMITH.

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2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE OCTOBER 12 AND 13 PRESS BRIEFINGS:

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S COMMENT IN A JERUSALEM PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAVE GRANTED CONCESSIONS TO OTHER COMPANIES FOR DRILLING IN THE EASTERN SECTOR OF THE GULF OF SUEZ?

A. ON WHETHER EGYPT HAS GIVEN OTHER CONCESSIONS IN THE AREA, THAT IS A QUESTION THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT THE LONGSTANDING CONCESSION GIVEN THE AMERICAN COMPANY, AMOCO.

Q. IS IT THE DEPARTMENT'S INTENT TO SEND UP THE LETTERS OF OFFER ON THE LATEST U.S. ARMS ARRANGEMENT FOR ISRAEL WHILE CONGRESS IS OUT OF SESSION?

A. WE HAVE NO PLANS TO SEND ANY NOTIFICATION OF LETTERS OF OFFER FOR THESE ITEMS TO CONGRESS BEFORE CONGRESS RETURNS IN JANUARY 1977.

3. FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO THE SPOKESMAN PRIOR TO THE ABOVE NOON BRIEFING:

Q. ARE YOU READY TO TELL US ANY MORE ABOUT THE NEW ARMS WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS RELEASED FOR ISRAEL?

A. I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT THE SECRETARY AND UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALLON SAID AFTER THEIR LUNCHEON HERE YESTERDAY. THEY MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AS A MATTER OF PRACTICE DO NOT DISCUSS IN PUBLIC MILITARY EQUIPMENT BEING SUPPLIED TO ISRAEL.

B. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL HAVE AN ONGOING MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP AND DECISIONS ON PARTICULAR ARMS SHIPMENTS ARE MADE ROUTINELY WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK.

C. WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT NEW TYPES OF MISSILES. ISRAELI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALLON SAID THAT THERE IS NOTHING NEW ON THE LIST WHICH HAS NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY GIVEN LONG AGO TO THE UNITED STATES.

D. PERSHING MISSILES, AS WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY NESSEN SAID, ARE NOT ON THE LIST, AND ARE NOT AMONG THE ITEMS GOING TO ISRAEL.

E. THE SECRETARY OUTLINED THE PROCEDURE: REQUESTS ARE SUBMITTED BY ISRAEL, THESE REQUESTS ARE JOINTLY STUDIED, AND IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF EVENTS--AS DECISIONS ARE REACHED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, ISRAEL IS INFORMED. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS CASE--ISRAEL WAS NOTIFIED IN A ROUTINE FASHION.

F. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DID NOT MAKE ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS ROUTINE DECISION. ALL THAT SHOULD ANSWER THE QUESTION WHETHER THIS DECISION IS CONNECTED WITH POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE REPORT IN THE NEW YORK TIMES ABOUT A STEP-UP IN DELIVERY OF M-6 TANKS, SUPPLY OF SELF-PROPELLED ARTILLERY, NEW ANTI-TANK MISSILES, HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS, NEW PERSONNEL CARRIERS, ULTRAMODERN COMMUNICATIONS AND RADAR EQUIPMENT, LARGE QUANTITIES OF M-16 RIFLES, RANGE-FINDERS FOR TANKS, TV-GUIDED BOMBS, AND ULTRA-SOPHISTICATED NIGHTFIGHTING EQUIPMENT?

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A. I HAVE SAID WE DO NOT GO PUBLICLY INTO THE ARMS BEING SUPPLIED ISRAEL. IN A GENERAL WAY THOUGH, LET ME REPEAT THAT THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL HAVE AN ONGOING ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP, AND DECISIONS ARE TAKEN ROUTINELY FROM TIME TO TIME WITHIN THAT SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP.

Q. BEFORE ANY OF THIS NEW EQUIPMENT CAN GO FORWARD, IS IT TRUE THAT THE LETTERS OF OFFER WILL HAVE TO BE NOTIFIED TO CONGRESS AND THE 30-DAY WAITING PERIOD OBSERVED FOR POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL?

A. AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION, CONGRESS IS NOTIFIED IN THE NORMAL WAY ABOUT THE LETTERS OF OFFER, AS THEY ARE AGREED, FOR VARIOUS MILITARY ITEMS OVER THE REQUIRED MONETARY FIGURE (DOLS 7 MILLION) SET IN RECENT LEGISLATION. IT HAS THIRTY DAYS TO DISAPPROVE THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION. AT THIS POINT, I CANNOT BE SPECIFIC ABOUT WHEN THE VARIOUS LETTERS OF OFFER ARE AGREED (WITH ISRAEL) AND THEN NOTIFIED TO CONGRESS.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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